

Appl. No. 10/786,431
Docket No.: H1799-00201
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME has been filed, concurrently with this Amendment, extending the time for response to the Official Action one (1) month, from July 19, 2005, to August 19, 2005. **The Commissioner for Patents is authorized to charge the fees inconnection with this Petition, namely \$120.00, or charge any additional fees required to Deposit Account No. 04-1679.**

As a result of this Amendment, claims 4-18 and 20-22 are under active consideration in the subject patent application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has:

- (1) rejected claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-11, 13-16, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,036,905, issued to Eninger;
- (2) objected to claims 4, 7-9, 12, 17-18, 21 and 22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicating that claims 4, 7-9, 12, 17-18, 21 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and
- (3) identified prior art made of record and not relied upon but considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

With regard to Items 1 and 2, Applicants categorically disagree with the Examiner's allegation that claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-11, 13-16, 19, and 20 are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,036,905, issued to Eninger. However, in an

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effort to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claims 1-3 and 19 without prejudice to their right to pursue the subject matter presented by those claims in related applications. Applicants' actions in this case are not intended to be an admission of any kind with regard to U.S. Patent No. 5,036,905, or its bearing upon the patentability of the subject matter presented in now canceled claims 1-3 and 19.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, claims 4, 7-9, 12, 17-18, and 21-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims;

Amended independent claim 4 includes all of the limitations from now canceled claims 2 and 3, and is allowable for all of the reasons set forth by the Examiner in the Official Action. Claims 7-9 and 12 are allowable for all of the reasons set forth in the Official Action, and dependent claims 5-6, 10-11, and 13-16 are now dependent directly or indirectly from allowable claim 4, and are allowable at least through dependency.

Amended independent claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter defined by now canceled claim 1 and claims 13-16. As acknowledged by the Examiner, claim 17 was allowable as filed, but required presentation in independent form for issuance of a patent grant and not for reasons of patentability.

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Amended Independent claim 21 includes all of the limitations from now canceled claim 19, and is allowable for all of the reasons set forth by the Examiner in the Official Action.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the above-identified application, Applicants' undersigned Attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at 717-237-5516.

Date: _____

Respectfully Submitted,



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